

## CLAIMS

- 5           1. A method of configuring a user interface of computer-assisted equipment according to a service program, comprising the steps of:
- said computer-assisted equipment transmitting a message to a remote computer;
- said remote computer determining that said service program available on
- 10   said remote computer is suitable for use with said computer-assisted equipment, said determining being based on said message; and
- said remote computer influencing operation of said user interface of said computer-assisted equipment in accordance with said service program.
- 15           2. The method of claim 1, wherein said computer-assisted equipment provides entertainment.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said computer-assisted equipment is an audio reproduction system.
- 20           4. The method of claim 1, wherein said computer-assisted equipment is a remote control device that controls functions of a video entertainment system, said video entertainment system receiving content from said remote computer.
- 25           5. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step includes said remote computer informing said computer-assisted equipment that at least one additional service program is available, said computer-assisted equipment selecting from among said service program and said at least one additional service program.
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6. The method of claim 5, additionally comprising said remote computer receiving a selection from said computer-assisted equipment, said selection indicating which of said service program and said at least one additional service program a user has selected.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein said remote computer is a general-purpose computer.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said message is a service request that indicates that said computer-assisted equipment is ready to operate cooperatively with said remote computer.

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9. The method of claim 1 further comprising said remote computer transmitting content to said computer-assisted equipment under the control of said service program.

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10. In a computer-assisted appliance, a method for interacting with a remote computer that executes a service program, comprising the steps of:  
transmitting a service request to said remote computer;  
receiving an interface instruction that enables said remote computer to execute a portion of a particular service program;  
transmitting a user input to said remote computer in accordance with said interface instruction; and  
receiving content from said remote computer in response to said interface instruction.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein said service request includes an indication that said computer-assisted appliance is available and is ready to receive said service program.

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12. The method of claim 10, wherein said remote computer is one of a portable and a desktop computing device.

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18. A computer-assisted appliance comprising:  
an interface module for communicating with a remote computer and for receiving an interface instruction from said remote computer;  
a processor for translating said interface instruction into an appliance-specific instruction for use by said computer-assisted appliance; and  
a user interface controller for presenting information to a user and receiving information from said user in accordance with said appliance-specific instruction.

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19. The computer-assisted appliance of claim 18, wherein said interface module communicates with said remote computer by way of a wireless communications interface.

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20. The computer-assisted appliance of claim 18, wherein said interface module also remotely controls a video entertainment system by way of a wireless interface.

21. The computer-assisted appliance of claim 18, wherein said  
appliance-specific instruction enables said computer-assisted appliance to  
display text to said user via a user interface coupled to said user interface  
5 controller.

22. The computer-assisted appliance of claim 18, wherein said  
appliance-specific instruction enables said computer-assisted appliance to  
display graphics to said user via a user interface coupled to said user interface  
10 controller.

23. The computer-assisted appliance of claim 18 further comprising a  
memory coupled to said processor for storing content received by way of said  
interface module.

24. In a remote computer, a method for cooperating with computer-  
assisted equipment, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a request for service from said computer-assisted equipment;  
determining that a service program suitable for use with said computer-  
20 assisted equipment is available, said service program including an interface  
instruction;  
transmitting said interface instruction to said computer-assisted  
appliance; and  
, cooperating with said computer-assisted appliance in accordance with  
25 said service program.

25. The remote computer of claim 24, wherein said determining step  
includes receiving a selection as to which service program has been selected by  
a user of said computer-assisted equipment.

26. The remote computer of claim 24, wherein said remote computer is interfaced to a network and wherein said remote computer communicates with a network location available on said network.

5 27. The remote computer of claim 24, wherein said transmitting step is accomplished by way of transmitting said interface instruction using a wireless interface.

10 28. A computer-assisted appliance comprising:  
means for communicating with a remote computer;  
means for receiving an instruction from said remote computer;  
means for converting said instruction to at least one appliance-specific instruction; and  
means for accepting an input from a user in accordance with said  
15 appliance-specific instruction.

20 29. The computer-assisted appliance of claim 28, wherein said means for communicating with said remote computer includes a wireless communications transmitter.

30 30. The computer-assisted appliance of claim 28, wherein said means for receiving an instruction from said remote computer includes a wireless communications receiver.

25 31. The computer-assisted appliance of claim 28 further comprising means for displaying information to a user of said computer-assisted appliance.

30 32. The computer-assisted appliance of claim 28, further comprising means for remotely controlling an entertainment device.

33. One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a service query from a computer-assisted appliance;
- 5 determining that an application program suitable for use with said computer-assisted appliance is available;
- configuring an interface of said computer-assisted appliance; and
- receiving information from said computer-assisted appliance, said information being conveyed from said interface and resulting from a user
- 10 interacting with said interface.

34. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein said receiving a service query step includes receiving an indicator that informs said computer of a function performed by said computer-assisted

15 appliance.

35. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein said determining step includes said computer searching through a list of application programs.

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36. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein said method further comprises said computer-assisted appliance prompting said user for said input.